

# **PRAYERS FOR A CHRISTIAN FAMILY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649678525

Prayers for a Christian Family by Thomas Sadler

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THOMAS SADLER**

**PRAYERS FOR A  
CHRISTIAN FAMILY**



PRAYERS  
FOR A  
CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

BY  
THOMAS SADLER, PH. D.

---

*As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.*

JOSH. XXIV, 15.

*Where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them.* MATT. XVIII, 20.

---

LONDON:

E. T. WHITFIELD, 178 STRAND.

1853.

138. d. 84.

PEACE be to this habitation !  
Peace to every soul herein !  
Peace, the earnest of salvation,  
Peace, the fruit of pardoned sin :  
Peace that speaks its heavenly Giver ;  
Peace to earthly minds unknown ;  
Peace divine that lasts for ever,  
Here erect its glorious throne !  
God of peace ! if Thou art near us,  
Fix in all our hearts Thy home !  
With Thy gracious presence cheer us,  
Hither let Thy kingdom come !  
Lift to Heaven our expectation ;  
Give our raptured souls to prove  
Glorious and complete salvation,  
Holy, everlasting love.

C. Wesley.

## INTRODUCTION.

---

BEFORE thou doest any thing else, be careful to consecrate the first-fruits of the day, and the very beginnings of thy holy thoughts to the service of God.

And when the day is ended, and the night cometh on, fall down and worship Him, who made the day and the night to give thee joy and rest.

*St. Basil.*

I have always wondered that any one should join a church without raising a family altar; for, if we do not confine our devotions to the closet, it seems natural that in bending the knee before the throne of grace, the first of our brethren whom we should desire to join, would be those of our own home—those whom we most love. And where if not in our homes have we occasion to seek God in prayer?

Consider what are the ordinary circumstances of a family each morning. Not only do we enjoy numberless gifts in common with all mankind, but God has also again given us to one another, the wife to the husband, the parent to the child, the sister to

the brother, sons and daughters to the father and mother. Think what would be our desolation of heart, if one were taken from us; and have we no gratitude to offer up, that our dear ones are still around us, as they were yesterday, that not one has slept in death during the night?

Further; have we nothing to *ask* for that blessed spot, around which cluster our holiest human affections? In our closets we pray for what concerns us as individuals; in our churches we pray for what concerns us as members of the great family of mankind; and have we, whom God has united in heart, in kindred, in outward condition, generally in opinion, and always by most sacred bonds of duty towards one another, and who share one another's joys and sorrows, and are liable to the same temptations, have we nothing to ask of Him who gathereth the solitary together in families? Surely we must feel it to be a right and most happy thing to pray to Him to be the staff of the aged, the guide of the young, our shelter in the storm, the protector and friend of all; surely we must feel it to be a most *needful* thing to beg Him to forgive us and help us in our infirmities, and render us less unworthy of His favour and benediction.

Again; have we nothing to say as a family, that He has made our sweet home-ties an emblem of the ties by which he would hereafter unite all



mankind, that Jesus Christ has called the lowliest of us brother, that we have an infinite heavenly as well as a frail earthly Father?

One of the teachers of the early church said, "Instruct the members of Thy household in beautiful songs. Those who introduce David and his harp call Christ into their house. And let prayers follow the psalms, that our souls and houses may be sanctified. Make thy house a church! where there are souls that love God and songs and prayers, there is a church; and if there be but a man and his wife, God is among them, and there is a vast congregation, for Christ and his angels are present."

In the following prayers I have endeavoured to unite simplicity and fervor of expression with thoughtfulness as to the substance, that we may pray "with the spirit and with the understanding." I am sure our hearts speak not less, but more earnestly for thoughtfulness as to what we ought to say; and I think any man, who in a right spirit undertakes to lead the devotions of a family must anxiously desire to present at the divine throne as fitting an offering as he can.

Among the names applied to the great object of our worship, I have especially employed those which tend to bring Him near to us, and they will have to us a deeper and more blessed meaning in pro-

portion as we gain the true filial spirit, in which He has encouraged us to approach Him.

It will, I believe, be found a peculiarity of these prayers, that frequent mention is made—not I hope in a manner either unbecoming, or to which any one can object—of departed friends. Regarding Heaven as no less real than Rome or Jerusalem, the early Christians when they had a brother at Rome and a sister in Heaven, or a mother in Heaven and a father at Jerusalem, did not leave one out of their thoughts, when they drew near to Him, whose children are “one family in Heaven and on the earth;” and accordingly I have not been unmindful of those of our family who are in Heaven; I cannot ascend in spirit to the very place where they are, and think and feel as though they were not.

Several prayers in the fourth and fifth weeks are from works already published,\* and two or three

---

\*FOURTH WEEK.

- Monday Evening. Dr. Hutton. “Devotional Exercises.”  
Tuesday Morning. Greenwood’s Liturgy.  
Tuesday Evening. Dr. Hutton.  
Wednesday Morning. Greenwood’s Liturgy.  
Wednesday Evening. “Evening Prayers for a Family.”  
Thursday Morning. Family Prayers by Jonathan Farr.

others have in substance previously appeared. As to the rest, though a large number are entirely original, I yet hope many of them will be found to contain "some of the best sayings of the holy Fathers." A part of my preparation for this work has been a study (in which I greatly delight) of the choicest devotional writings of various ages and denominations; and I have never hesitated to make use of passages or phrases, which seemed to me better to express my feelings and wants, than any language of my own.\* Indeed the best devo-

Saturday Morning. Travers Madge. "Prayers for the use of Families."

Saturday Evening. Travers Madge.

FIFTH WEEK.

Monday Morning. Travers Madge.

Friday Evening. "Prayers for a Month."

\* The following additional works may be mentioned as having afforded me more or less aid;

A Collection of Offices or Forms of Prayer in cases ordinary and extraordinary; taken out of the Scriptures and the ancient Liturgies of several Churches, especially the Greek.

The Book of Common Prayer.

St. Augustine's Meditations.

St. Anselm's Meditations.

The Imitation of Christ.

Prayers and Meditations appended to the Imitation of